

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS AND LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40), with an inserted seal (3) if required,

characterized in that the plate (102) is constructed to move away from said attachment means such that the distance between said plate (102) and said attachment means when the attachment device is not mounted on a recipient neck (40) is less than the distance between said plate (102) and said attachment means when the attachment device is mounted on a recipient neck (40), and in that the attachment means is attached without the skirt undergoing material flow deformation ~~substantially undeformable~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ An attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the attachment means comprise clip-on lugs (108) equipped at their lower ends with clip-on heads (109) which are designed to be inserted under the neck (40) of the recipient; ~~each said clip-on head (109) being substantially undeformable against the neck (40) recipient~~ without undergoing material flow deformation.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 2, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck, ~~the neck without the plate~~ and the attachment means undergoing material flow deformation ~~being substantially undeformable against the neck~~ when the hoop is engaged around the ring.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the outer surface of the skirt is substantially cylindrical when the attachment device is not mounted on a recipient.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 1, wherein the plate (102) is connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 5, wherein the deformable flexible connection (106) is formed by a peripheral annular recess (107) ~~provided in the plate~~ to reduce the ~~plate surface~~ thickness locally in a circular fashion.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claims 5, wherein the deformable flexible connection (106) is punched.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment according to claim 5, wherein

the flexible connection (106) comprises a plurality of spacers connecting the plate (102) to the skirt (101).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 8, also comprising a hoop 13 fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

10. (Withdrawn) Attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2), such as a pump or a valve, onto a neck of a recipient, said attachment device comprising a ring (10) formed by an attachment bushing (11) and a reception sleeve (12),

- the bushing (11) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient,

- a reception sleeve (12) forming reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the receiving means toward the skirt, said plate (102) comprising a lower surface (105) designed to be pressed against the upper end of the neck, with an inserted seal (4) if required,

characterized in that the bushing (11) comprises a support flange (111) which extends inwards above the plate (102), elastic means (112) being inserted between the flange and the plate such that it is possible to move the plate (102) axially towards the flange by compressing the elastic means.

11. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 10, wherein the elastic means comprise several elastic blocks (112) distributed on the circumference.

12. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 10, wherein the elastic means (112) form one piece with the seal (3).

13. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 12, wherein the seal forming one piece with the elastic means is mounted over the ring plate.

14. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 12, wherein the seal surrounds the plate on the external circumference.

15. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 10, wherein the attachment means comprise clip-on lugs (108) equipped at their lower ends with clip-on heads (109) designed to be inserted under the neck of the recipient.

16. (Withdrawn) Attachment device according to claim 15, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the sleeve 12 to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42) and

a thickened rim (41), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and ~~a substantially undeformable~~ an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40) without undergoing material flow deformation, with an inserted seal (3) if required,

the plate (102) being connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection (106),

only the plate being in contact with the upper end of the neck (40) or the inserted seal, the deformable flexible connection (106) being spaced from the upper end (42) of the neck (40) at least when the attachment means is not engaged with the rim (41) to attach the device (1) ~~device is not definitively mounted~~ on a recipient neck, the skirt (101) being only in contact with the rim (41).

18. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the deformable flexible connection extends radially outwardly from the plate and radially inwardly from the skirt.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the plate, the skirt and the deformable flexible connection are integrally formed by the ring.

20. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the deformable flexible connection has a thin surface in relation to the plate such that the deformation takes place at the connection.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the flexible deformable connection (106) is formed by a peripheral annular recess (107) provided ~~at a helical~~ adjacent the outer edge of the plate (102) to reduce the plate surface thickness of the ring (10) locally in a circular fashion.

22. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the flexible connection (106) comprises a plurality of spacers connecting the plate (102) to the skirt (101).

23. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 17, wherein the attachment means comprises clip-on lugs (108) equipped at their lower ends with clip-on heads (109) designed to be inserted under the neck (40) of the recipient.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 23, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

25. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) forming a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck of the recipient, reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device and an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means toward the skirt, said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40), with an inserted seal (3) if required,

the plate (102) being connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection (106), the connection (106) having an initial ~~deformed~~ state ~~wherein~~ when the attachment device (1) is not ~~definitively~~ mounted on a recipient neck (40) and a final deformed state ~~wherein~~ when the attachment device (1) is ~~definitively~~ mounted on a recipient neck (40),

the attachment means having an initial state wherein the attachment means does not engage the recipient neck to attach said device (1) and a final state wherein the attachment means engages the recipient neck to attach said device (1), the initial and final states of the attachment means being substantially identical so that the attachment means is substantially undeformed.

26. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 25, wherein the deformable flexible connection has a thin surface in relation to the plate such that the deformation takes place at the connection.

27. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 25, wherein the deformable flexible connection (106) is formed by a peripheral annular recess (107) provided at a radially outer edge of the plate to reduce the surface thickness locally in a circular fashion, the recess being spaced from the upper end of the neck, when the connection is in the final deformed state.

28. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 25, wherein the attachment means comprise clip-on lugs (108) equipped at their lower ends with clip-on heads (109) designed to be inserted under the neck (40) of the recipient.

29. (Currently Amended) ~~Attachment~~ The attachment device according to claim 28, also comprising a hoop (13) fitted on the ring (10) to lock the clip-on heads (109) under the neck.

30. (New) An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) defining

a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck (40) of the recipient (4),

reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device (1); and

an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means (103)

toward the skirt (101), said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40), with an inserted seal (3) if required;

the plate (102) being connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection (106), the connection (106) having an initial state when the attachment device (1) is not mounted on the recipient neck (40) and a final deformed state when the attachment device (1) is mounted on the recipient neck (40), said initial state of said connection (106) being offset axially further from said plate (102) in a step-like configuration, said final deformed state of said connection (108) having an inverted V-shaped cross-sectional configuration.

31. (New) An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) defining

a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck (40) of the recipient (4),

reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device (1); and

an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means (103) toward the skirt (101), said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40), with an inserted seal (3) if required;

the plate (102) being connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection (106), the connection (106) having an initial state when the attachment device is not mounted on the recipient neck (40) and a final deformed state when the attachment device is mounted

on the recipient neck (40), said initial state of said connection (106) defining a notch which opens toward said attachment means to define a region of weakness for subsequently accommodating material flow deformation of the connection (106) to said final deformed state when the attachment device (1) is mounted on the recipient neck (40).

32. (New) An attachment device (1) to attach a distribution device (2) onto a neck (40) of a recipient (4), comprising an upper end (42), said attachment device comprising a ring (10) defining

a skirt (101) equipped with attachment means designed to co-operate with the neck (40) of the recipient (4), reception means (103) designed to receive the distribution device (1); and

an annular plate (102) extending radially outwardly from the reception means (103) toward the skirt (101), said plate (102) being designed to be pressed against the upper end (42) of the neck (40), with an inserted seal (3) if required;

the plate (102) being connected to the skirt (101) by a deformable flexible connection (106), the connection (106) having an initial state when the attachment device is not mounted on the recipient neck (40) and a final deformed state when the attachment device is mounted on the recipient neck, said initial state of said connection (106) having a plurality of radial spacers (106') which join said plate (102) to said skirt (101) and which define a plurality of gaps (106'') weakening said connection (106) for subsequently accommodating material flow deformation of the connection (106) to said final deformed state when the attachment device (1) is mounted on the recipient neck (40).